

Message Text

SECRET

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42

ACTION NODS-00

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 /001 W

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O 071828Z JAN 76

FM AMEMBASSY OUAGADOUGOU

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 0786

S E C R E T OUAGADOUGOU 0060

NODIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, AO, US

SUBJ: PRESIDENTIAL MESSAGE

REF: STATE 1375

1. BECAUSE OF TENSE POLITICAL SITUATION IN OUAGADOUGOU IN WHICH PRESIDENT LAMIZANA APPARENTLY FINDS HIMSELF IN STRANGE POSITION OF MEDIATING BETWEEN TRADE UNIONS AND MILITARY, I WAS UNABLE TO SEE HIM UNTIL 1700 JAN 7 TO DELIVER PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE ON ANGOLA.

2. LAMIZANA READ MESSAGE CAREFULLY AND SAID THAT THIS REPRESENTED EXACTLY UPPER VOLTA'S POSITION. FOREIGN MINISTER ZERBO HAD LEFT FOR OAU SUMMIT MEETING WITH INSTRUCTIONS TO MAINTAIN THIS POSITION. UPPER VOLTA DOES NOT INTEND TO RECOGNIZE ANY OF THE THREE LIBERATION MOVEMENTS AS THE LEGITIMATE GOVERNMENT OF ANGOLA. IT FAVORS A COALITION GOVERNMENT OF ALL THREE MOVEMENTS AND THE WITHDRAWAL OF ALL FOREIGN TROOPS FROM ANGOLA. SEKOU TOURE HAD SENT LAMIZANA THREE URGENT MESSAGES URGING HIM TO RECOGNIZE THE MPLA BUT HE HAD REPLIED IN NO UNCERTAIN TERMS THAT THIS WAS NOT UPPER VOLTA'S POSITION. NIGERIA HAD ALSO SENT TWO MISSIONS TO URGE HIM TO RECOGNIZE MPLA. NIGERIANS HAD STRESSED SOUTH AFRICAN INVOLVEMENT ON SIDE OF UNITA AND LAMIZANA HAD TOLD THAM THAT, WHILE PRESENCE OF SOUTH AFRICAN TROOPS BOTHERED HIM "A LITTLE", HE DID NOT FEEL IT WAS SUFFICIENT

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REASON FOR UPPER VOLTA TO CHANGE ITS POSITION.

3. I TOLD LAMIZANA THAT I HAD GONE TO ABIDJAN ON JANUARY 1 TO BE BRIEFED BY ASSISTANT SECRETARY SCHAUFELLE ON ANGOLAN SITUATION. LAMIZANA SAID THAT HE, HIMSELF, WAS WELL BRIEFED ON ANGOLA BECAUSE VOLTAN DELEGATION TO OAU MEDIATION COMMISSION, HEADED BY FORMER MINISTER OF PUBLIC WORKS FRANCOIS LOMPO, HAD JUST RETURNED TO OUAGADOUGOU AFTER TWO MONTHS OF WORK ON THE COMMISSION, INCLUDING VISITS IN ANGOLA TO HEADQUARTERS OF ALL THREE LIBERATION MOVEMENTS. VOLTAN DELEGATION HAD REPORTEDLY BEEN PARTICULARLY IMPRESSED BY ORDER AND DISCIPLINE IN AREAS CONTROLLED BY UNITA.

4. LAMIZANA SAID THAT HE WOULD NOT BE GOING TO ADDIS ABABA AND HE DID NOT BELIEVE THAT MANY CHIEFS OF STATE FROM WEST AFRICA WOULD ATTEND.

5. RE STATE 002925, I BELIEVE, IN VIEW OF LAMIZANA'S REMARKS, THAT UPPER VOLTA SHOULD BE MOVED FROM PARAGRAPH 4 TO PARAGRAPH 5.
GRAHAM

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NNN

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